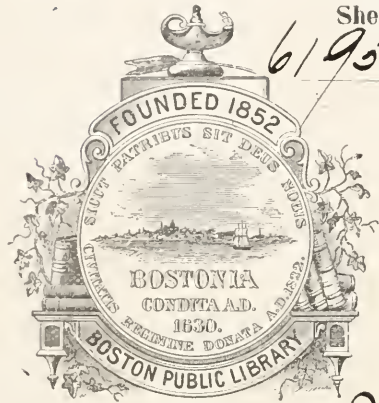


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ADDRESS

OF

J. H. BENTON, Jr.,

AT THE

DEDICATION

OF THE

BRADFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY BUILDING,

BRADFORD, VERMONT, JULY 4, 1895.



BOSTON:

ADDISON C. GETCHELL, PRINTER,

No. 185 FRANKLIN STREET.

1896.

ADDRESS

OF

J. H. BENTON, Jr.,

AT THE

DEDICATION

OF THE

6195.66

From J. H. BENTON, Jr.,

Ames Building, Boston.



✓

BOSTON:
ADDISON C. GETCHELL, PRINTER,
No. 185 FRANKLIN STREET.
1896.

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“The true university of these days is a collection of Books.”

— CARLYLE.

“A good book is the precious life-blood of a master-spirit, embalmed and treasured up on purpose to a life beyond life.”

— MILTON.

ADDRESS.

Two sentiments dominate the day, — loyalty to the nation and love of learning. The one is typified by the flag with its resplendent folds and glittering stars, the other by the beautiful building which we have met to dedicate to sound learning and popular education.

Our first duty is to acknowledge our obligation to the man to whose generous gift Bradford owes its first permanent library building.

JOHN LUNN WOODS was born at Corinth, Orange county, Vermont, February 11, 1821. He was the third of the five children of Oliver Woods and his wife, whose maiden name was Lucinda Lamb. Oliver Woods was a farmer owning a farm of considerable size, and he died when John was about thirteen years old. Mrs. Woods then took charge of and managed the farm. John was named for his uncle, John Lunn Woods, who kept a country store at Woodsville, New Hampshire, and when the boy was fifteen years of age he went to live with his uncle.

His education in books was received in the district schools of Corinth and Woodsville, and his education in practical life in those excellent schools, the country farm and the country store. He learned industry and economy, and at the age of twenty he went to Port Huron, Michigan, where he began work as a laborer at very low wages. He stated in after life that during the first year his entire expenses — for he was boarded by his employer — were less than five dollars. He soon became proficient in the lumber business, was placed in charge of his employer's

mills, and in 1851 succeeded to his entire business, which he continued until 1874, when he removed to Cleveland, Ohio, where he lived until his death on March 29, 1893.

In 1849 he married Emily A. Moore of Richmond, Vermont, who died December 20, 1892.

Early in his life he began to accumulate money, and by fortunate investments in pine lands he had by middle life become a very rich man. He was public-spirited and benevolent, and gave largely, but in a careful and judicious way. It is of interest to know that at an early day he founded and suitably endowed a public library and reading room at Oscoda, Michigan. His largest single contribution was to the Western Reserve Medical College, and amounted to several hundred thousand dollars. He also gave \$50,000 to the Lakeside hospital in Cleveland, and an equal amount to the Cleveland University, for the benefit of its women's college, each as permanent endowment funds in memory of his wife.

He seems to have retained a deep interest in his native state, and his bequest to the Bradford public library was prompted by the fact that many of his relatives now live here.

It was said by one who knew him well that he had no sentimentality in his giving, but was plain, practical, and sensible. I think the conditions of the bequest to this library are of that character. The first is that the trustees shall procure a suitable lot of land, centrally located to accommodate the whole village, in fee simple and free from debt.

The bequest then provides that the library shall have a suitable reading room to be supplied with the best papers and periodicals, and that the library and reading room shall be open every afternoon and evening, including Sun-

day, and that a capable man shall be employed to take charge of the building and contents. Not more than \$10,000 of the bequest was to be applied to the cost of the building, and the remainder was, upon the completion of the building, to be invested as a permanent endowment fund under his name, the income to be applied to the purchase of books, papers, and expenses of the library and reading room.*

He contemplated a practical working library for the information and education of the people, and not a mere retreat for scholars. If the library is thus maintained its influence will strengthen and widen as the years go by and it will be his most appropriate and enduring monument.

We should not forget, however, that this gift was suggested, and its usefulness made possible, by the library work which was begun and carried on for a score of years by the unselfish and unaided efforts of the women of Bradford.

It is appropriate, and will, I believe, be of permanent value, to preserve the history of their work, and, so far as we can, trace its progress from the first small beginning to the time when it had become of such importance as to attract the interest and be the object of the wise beneficence of Mr. Woods.

In 1874, Mrs. Albert Bailey and Mrs. Charles Jones went about from house to house and procured subscriptions of one dollar each from sixty-three women, to a fund for the purchase of books for a library.†

* A copy of that portion of Mr. Woods' will, and of the subsequent modification thereof by him by letter, is Appendix 1.

† A list of the subscribers is Appendix 2.

January 1, 1875, these subscribers adopted regulations for the government of their library, which were as follows:—

"REGULATIONS OF THE LADIES' LIBRARY ASSOCIATION, ADOPTED JANUARY 1, 1875.

"1. Any lady may become a member of this Association by paying the sum of one dollar annually, from January 1.

"2. Members meet to exchange books on alternate Saturdays at 3 o'clock P.M.

"3. For any book kept out of the library over four weeks, a fine of five cents per week will be exacted, to be collected by the librarian.

"4. No books to be loaned to any person not a member of this society.

"5. It shall be the duty of every member of this society to take proper care of all the books in their possession, and any book being unnecessarily injured while in the possession of any member, said member shall be charged with the price of the book.

"6. If at any time it shall be deemed best to disorganize this society, such disposition shall be made of the books as shall receive a two-thirds vote of the members, *pro rata*."

In addition to the annual subscriptions, money was obtained by entertainments and lectures conducted by the association.

The books were kept at the house of Mrs. Jones, who acted as librarian for three years.

The amount of money was not sufficient to purchase as many books as there were members, and therefore those most interested in the work gave books to make up enough

to go around. The books were evidently well circulated, for from records which still exist it appears that the number of books drawn by members in 1875 was 836; in 1876, 1056; in 1877, 980; in 1878, 1095; in 1879, 1216.

The records of the years 1880, 1881, and 1882, and the secretary's and treasurer's books for the first five years of association, were destroyed by fire in February, 1883.

In 1879, through the efforts of Mrs. Roswell Farnham, who was for some years the efficient president of the association, it received a gift of \$1000 from D. K. Pearsons of Chicago, a native of Bradford, to be invested, and the income spent in the purchase of books. This appears to have increased their importance to such an extent that on January 3, 1880, they boldly adopted a constitution and by-laws. This constitution provided for an executive committee, and for holding lectures and other entertainments for the purpose of raising funds.

It also provided for records of the proceedings of the association to be kept by a secretary, and contained full and specific provisions as to the duties of the treasurer, requiring that she should keep "in a book for that purpose a full and accurate account of all her doings, and make full report thereof at the annual meeting, or oftener, as called upon by the society."

The selection of books was, by the constitution, confided to the executive committee.

The by-laws then adopted provided that the library should be open every Saturday afternoon for the drawing of books, and should be open to all residents of Bradford not members of the association, at the rate of three cents per week, and that persons not residents of Bradford could

draw books upon paying ten cents and depositing with the librarian the sum of one dollar.*

This constitution and by-laws, with certain amendments adopted from time to time, are now the constitution and by-laws of the association.

In 1880 the receipts of the association, outside of income from the Pearsons fund, were \$72.32.

In 1881, \$525.34 was expended for books, and the library had increased to 857 volumes.

In 1882, \$220.93 was expended for books, and the management was so far progressive that it opened the library on Saturday evenings as well as in the afternoon.

The librarian reported at the end of the year that 175 books had been drawn on Saturday evenings.

In 1883, 1320 books were drawn by members, 1023 by persons not members, on what was known as the three-cent list (that is, upon the payment of three cents a week instead of \$1 a year subscription), making a total of 2343.

February 19 in this year, the building in which the library was kept was destroyed by fire, and, of the 1146 volumes, only 536 were saved. Fortunately the insurance was ample, and the insurance money was immediately expended in books, the total number of volumes at the end of the year being 1058.

In 1884 the executive committee reported that the library was in better condition than ever before. The number of books drawn by members during that year was 1386, and on the three-cent list 1086, or a total of 2472.

In 1885, 1375 books were drawn out by members, and 1160 on the three-cent list, or a total of 2535. The re-

* A copy of the constitution and by-laws, and list of its officers from 1880 to 1895, will be found as Appendix 3.

ceipts this year aside from the income of the Pearsons fund were \$99.19.

In 1886 the circulation to members was 1650, and on the three-cent list 1175, or a total of 2825. The whole number of volumes in the library was 1427, and the receipts from fees of members and three-cent fees was \$91.80.

In 1887 the society had 65 members, who drew out 1676 volumes, and there were drawn on the three-cent list 1608 books. The receipts during the year were \$120.44, and 97 volumes were added to the library.

The executive committee, in their report for this year, note the increasing number of boys and girls who availed themselves of the library, where their reading was directed as much as possible by those in charge.

In 1888 the receipts were \$99.13, and for the first time the books drawn by persons not members of the association exceeded those drawn by the members, 1484 being drawn on the three-cent list, and only 1320 by the members, making a total of 2804.

During the year, 105 books were purchased and 72 were received by gift, and the library numbered 1802 volumes.

In 1889 the receipts were \$95.21, 53 volumes were added to the library, 1024 books were drawn by the members, and 1354 on the three-cent list, or a total of 2378.

In 1890 the receipts were \$89.71, members drew 993 books, and 1285 were drawn on the three-cent list, making a total of 2278 books drawn. The library numbered 1960 volumes.

In 1891 the receipts were \$79.09, but the amount expended was only \$70.10. Forty-eight volumes were added to the library. Members drew 1074 books, and 1179 were drawn on the three-cent list, or a total circulation of 2263.

In 1892 the receipts were \$100.04. Ninety-two books

were bought at a cost of \$85. Members drew 1136 volumes, and 1323 were drawn by others, making a total circulation of 2459.

In 1893 the receipts were \$108.96, and 101 books were purchased. One thousand two hundred eighty three books were drawn by members, and 1284 by others, making a total circulation of 2567.

In 1894 the receipts were only \$67.63; 893 volumes were drawn by members and 961 by others, making a total of 1854.

So far during 1895 the receipts, and the circulation among the members, seem to have decreased, for the receipts to June 22 were only \$27.75, the books drawn by members 252, and on the three-cent list 518, or a total circulation of 770.

The total number of volumes at the present time is 2188, and the association has given them to the corporation which owns the Woods library building.*

Mrs. Albert Bailey was president in 1875 and 1876; Mrs. A. A. Doty in 1877 and 1878; Mrs. K. K. Wilson in 1879.

Mrs. Charles Jones was librarian in 1875, 1876, and 1877; Miss Lucy Nelson in 1879.

In 1880, when the constitution and by-laws were adopted, a larger number of officers were provided for, a list of whom each year to the present time will be found as Appendix 3.

* The vote of gift was as follows:—

“At a special meeting of Bradford Public Library Association held in the library room June 29, 1895, the following motion was made and carried unanimously:—

“Moved, that we give the books and property to the corporation called the Bradford Public Library.

“Attest: ORISSA J. PRICHARD,

Sec.”

The first catalogue of the Ladies' Library was not an ambitious document. It was a simple list, kept upon sheets of legal foolscap, with the number of the volume in the right-hand margin, the name of the volume in the centre of the page, and the name of the author in the left-hand column. The catalogue in use in 1880 is in existence, and shows a list of 344 volumes.

In 1880 the list was copied into a book in the same form, each new volume being added to the list and given a new number. This book has been preserved. It shows a list of 1149 volumes on February 19, 1883. At that time a committee was appointed to prepare a catalogue to be printed, and the committee reported, April 2, 1884, that the library contained 1237 volumes. In this catalogue, for the first time, the books were arranged alphabetically and not numerically, and, by subsequent appendices issued from time to time, the catalogue has been kept up down to the present time.

Who can measure the good which has resulted to this community from this patient, persistent, unselfish work of these wise and public-spirited women? They deserve our praise equally with him whose name this building bears. He gave of his abundance and by a single act. They gave from limited means and by the constant devotion of a score of years.

While his name is carved upon the portal of your library, theirs should be borne upon tablets on its walls, that in the years and generations to come those who enjoy its benefits may not forget how much they owe to those who made its existence possible.

But the library of the Ladies' Library Association of 1875 was not the first in Bradford. It was preceded by the library of the Bradford Scientific Association, which

was incorporated in 1860 by the General Assembly for the purpose of scientific and literary research and improvement.*

This association accumulated three or four hundred volumes, to which were added at a later date about one hundred and fifty volumes given by the Agricultural Library, an association formed in the days of the "Grangers."

These libraries were accessible only to the members, and were both destroyed in the fire of February, 1883.

The Bradford Academy, which was incorporated in 1820,† soon after it opened accumulated a small library, known as "The Oliverian Library," belonging really to a society of students under that name.

In 1838 this society was merged with another society of the students known as the "Philomathesian," and the library passed to the control of that society. Subsequently that library became a part of the "Merrill Library," which was founded by a bequest of \$2090.33 from Mrs. Eliza C. Merrill in 1859, and is now an important part of the educational equipment of the graded high school.‡

Bradford, however, enjoys the peculiar honor of being the first town in which an incorporated library society was

* Session Laws, 1860, c. 100.

† Session Laws, 1820, c. 153.

‡ Mrs. Merrill died January 25, 1859. The provision in her will was as follows:—

"*Eighth.* To the Trustees of the Bradford Academy in Bradford, Vermont, I give and bequeath all the remainder of my property of whatsoever name or nature, in trust, however, for the following purposes, to wit: The principal to be invested in a safe and productive Mortgage on Real Estate and the income only from said investment to be expended in Books or Philosophical apparatus for the free use and benefit of the scholars in said Academy."

The trustees received the \$2090.33 September 13, 1859.

established in Vermont, and this was at so early a day in the history of the town as to mark unmistakably the intelligence and the love of learning of its first settlers.

September 10, 1796, which was only twenty-six years after King George III., of his "special grace, certain knowledge, and mere motion," did "create, erect, and constitute" a tract of land "on the west side of Connecticut River in the County of Gloucester, within our Province of New York a Township by the name of Moore Town," the name of which was changed to Bradford by the general assembly of Vermont in November, 1788, thirty-two citizens of Bradford signed a petition asking the legislature to establish a library corporation in this town.

This petition indicates that the subscribers were already a library society, and they doubtless had then a collection of books, but desired to be able to act in a corporate form, and make regulations for the government of the society. The original petition is still in existence, and, by the kindness of the state officer in whose custody it is, I have been allowed to bring it with me, that I may show it to you. I think you will agree with me that it is a remarkable document both in matter and in style. It is as follows:—

"To the Honorable, The Legislature of the State of Vermont—

"We the subscribers your petitioners, reflecting on the importance of education and of every mean which tends to the encouragement thereof, but especially on the high veneration your Honors feel for Literature, and the many advantages flowing therefrom both to societies and individuals; encouraged by these and many other motives of the like importance; considering also, that well regulated Library Societies are pil-

lars which support in no small degree the honor and dignity of States, Towns &c. in which they are established, Pray your Honors, at your next session to be holden at Rutland on the second Thursday of October next ensuing, to incorporate us and others, a body politic and corporate styled, *The Bradford Social Library Society*, and grant us a charter, that we may have power of choosing officers in, and of making our own laws and regulations necessary for the government of said Society ; which we wish may not thwart, but be protected by the laws of this State — and your petitioners as in duty bound will ever pray —

Bradford (Vermont) September 10th, 1796.

MICAH BARRON

JOHN BANFILL

BENJAMIN LITTLE

EBEN^R. METCALF

CALEB PUTNAM

HIRAM PEARSON

JOSEPH CLARK

PATRICK KANEDY

JOHN PECKETT

EBENR. HIDDEN

HERBERT ORMSBEE

THOMAS PILSBURY

JNO. UNDERWOOD

TIMOTHY AYER

JEPHTHA SHARP

EPHRIM MARTIN

LEMWELL ORSBORN

BENJ^A. BALDWIN

DAVID BLISS

MOSES CHAMBERLIN

THOMAS MAY

JOHN BARRON

EZEKIEL LITTLE

ARAD STEBBINS

GARDINER KELLOGG

AND^W B. PETERS

ROBERT HUNKINS

LEVI S. ANDROS

JOSEPH JOHNSON

BENJ^A. P. BALDWIN

BENJAMIN WHITCOMB

WILLIAM PECKETT

WILLIAM CASE

JOHN BLISS.”

Such information as I have been able to obtain concerning the signers of this petition is Appendix 4.

The following filing on back of the petition shows the action which was taken upon the petition by the general assembly : —

“ Petition of
MICAHA BARRON, JOHN
BANFILL,
EZEKIEL LITTLE and
others.
Filed Oct. 15, 1796.
ROS. HOPKINS, *Secy.*
In General Assembly,
17th. Octr. 1796.
Read and referred to
Messrs. LYON, FARRAND
and CUTLER
Att. R. WHITNEY, *Clk.*
In Genl. Assembly
25th Octr. 1796.
The Com^e reports in favour
of the petition and also
reported a bill which was
accepted.

Att. R. WHITNEY, *Clerk.*” *

And now, after nearly a hundred years, this faded manuscript comes back to the spot where it was written, to inspire us with the same love of learning and education, and the same devotion to good order and good government, which the fathers had when they set their names to its compact and luminous lines.

I have not as yet been able to ascertain, and perhaps it

* See Vermont State Papers (MSS.), vol. XIX. p. 299.

cannot now be accurately ascertained, by whom this petition was drafted. A comparison of the text of the petition with the signatures of the signers may afford some indication, and those who are curious will have ample opportunity to exercise their power of comparison of writing by examining the photographic copy which I have caused to be prepared and placed in your library.

I have never seen a document which was to me more interesting than this ancient petition. Better English could not be written, and the purpose of a library society could not be stated in a more accurate or felicitous manner.

Respect for good order and good government, regard for education and love of learning, are shown in every one of its well-phrased lines. Considering the time and the circumstances under which it was written, I think I am justified in saying it is one of the most remarkable papers to be found in the archives of any state.

Upon this petition the following act of incorporation was passed, November 5, 1796:—

“AN ACT INCORPORATING CERTAIN PERSONS THEREIN
MENTIONED, A SOCIETY, BY THE NAME OF BRADFORD
SOCIAL LIBRARY SOCIETY.

“Whereas certain persons in the county of Orange, influenced by a conviction of the many advantages that have arisen from literary societies, and public libraries, have associated themselves under the name and title of the ‘Bradford social library society;’ and whereas said society are desirous to promote and encourage literature, and considering that well regulated library societies tend, in a very great degree, to promote knowledge more universally, have petitioned the legislature, that the members of said society may be

created a body corporate forever, with the power of choosing their own officers, and of making laws and regulations necessary for the government of said society, in such manner as may best answer the laudable purposes which the members of said society may have in view ; wherefore, to assist and encourage the members of said society, in promoting useful knowledge and literature.

"I. It is hereby enacted by the general assembly of the state of Vermont, that the following persons, to wit, Gardner Kellogg, Micah Barron and Ezekiel Little, and their associates be, and they are hereby created a body corporate, to be called and known by the name of Bradford social library society, and they by the same name, and their successors, are hereby constituted and confirmed a body corporate in law.

"II. And it is hereby further enacted, that the said society shall be capable in law to sue and be sued, plead and be impleaded, answer and be answered unto, defend and be defended against, in all or any court of justice, and other places, in all manner of suits, actions, complaints, pleas, causes and matters, of what nature or kind soever, by the name of Bradford social library society. And that it may and shall be lawful for the said society hereafter to have and use a common seal, and the same at the will and pleasure of said society to break, change alter and renew.

"III. And it is hereby further enacted, that the said society shall have full power to make their own by-laws and regulations, such as the appointing the time and place of holding their meetings, regulating the mode of electing their officers, determining the author-

ity and duty of each officer, establishing the mode of admission of members, and regulating all other concerns and interests of said corporation, and to enact penalties on such persons as transgress such rules and regulations.

"Provided, that such penalties shall not extend to any thing more than the forfeiture of the share or shares of the respective delinquents.

"And provided also, that such bye-laws and regulations of said corporation, hereafter made, shall not be repugnant to the constitution and laws of this state.

"IV. Provided also, and It is hereby further enacted, that no bye-laws or regulations of said corporation hereafter made, shall be binding upon the officers or members thereof, unless the same shall have been proposed at one regular meeting of the said society, and enacted and received at another, after the intervention of at least twenty days.

"V. And it is hereby further enacted, that Micah Barron be, and he is hereby authorized to warn the first meeting of said society, and duly notify the members of the time and place.

"Provided nevertheless, it shall be in the power of the legislature of this state to regulate or dissolve said corporation, at any time when they shall see fit, any thing in said act to the contrary notwithstanding."

[Passed November 5, 1796.]

This was the first library act passed by the general assembly, and the Bradford Social Library Society was the first library corporation established in Vermont.

This act of incorporation is in some respects as interesting as the petition upon which it was granted. It shows

by its preamble that the petitioners were already associated as a library society, and sets forth their purpose in English equally concise and perspicuous with that of the petition.

It also contains in itself all the necessary provisions for the creation, organization, and government of a corporate body. It would not be possible to-day, with the experience of a hundred years, to frame a corporate charter which would better provide for the creation of a corporation, its organization, and its regulation, than does this.

It also contains a provision which to the legal profession is of peculiar interest, and that is the provision that it shall be in the power of the legislature to regulate or dissolve said corporation at any time when they shall see fit. It was not until 1819 that the Supreme Court of the United States decided, in the famous Dartmouth College case, that a charter was a contract, within the meaning of the provision of the United States Constitution, forbidding the states to pass laws impairing the obligation of contracts.

When the legislature of New Hampshire in 1816 passed an act amending the charter of Dartmouth College, and changing the college into a university, it was for the first time claimed that such an act was contrary to the Constitution of the United States, because the charter of the corporation was a contract. The Supreme Court of New Hampshire held otherwise, and it was not until 1819 that the Supreme Court of the United States reversed their decision, and held that such a charter was a contract, and could not be repealed by the legislature unless the legislature had reserved a power to repeal it. It was in consequence of this decision that the familiar provision now inserted in charters, or made by general laws in all the states, reserving the power to amend or repeal charters, was adopted in state legislation. And yet a quarter of a century be-

fore the Supreme Court of the United States held that any such reserved power was necessary to enable the legislature to dissolve a corporation, these rude frontiersmen of Vermont inserted in this charter a provision reserving that power.

The man who drew this provision must have had in his mind the idea, which was not then generally held by the legal profession, that a charter might be a contract, and that unless the legislature reserved the power to regulate or dissolve a corporation, it could not afterwards do so. This presupposes an accurate study of the Federal Constitution, and of the clause with regard to state laws impairing the obligation of contracts. It presupposes also an accurate knowledge of the nature of a corporate body. In short, it presupposes all the essential ideas which are contained in the wonderful opinion of Chief Justice MARSHALL in the Dartmouth College case nearly a quarter of a century after.

It was ten years later before the legislature of Massachusetts inserted in any charter a provision authorizing the legislature to dissolve it; and, so far as I know, this Bradford Library Society charter is the earliest charter which contains such a provision. There is no more interesting or instructive chapter in the legislation of any state.

Thus you see that, taken together, this petition, and the charter which was granted upon it, form a chapter in the history of your town of which you have peculiar reason to be proud. I believe no other New England town can match it, and it should be kept in perpetual remembrance by you and by those who come after you.

Perhaps the most interesting inquiry in respect to it is: How did these men do this thing? How did these early settlers, cutting down the forest, subduing the soil, strug-

gling with all the adverse forces of nature on the frontiers of civilization, come to have the capacity to frame such papers as this petition and charter?

Addison could not have written English more pure than that of this petition; the most accomplished jurist of to-day could not frame a charter more complete and accurate than this act of incorporation. Why was it?

I think the answer is to be largely found in the character of the books they read. They did not form their style upon the daily newspaper and the modern novel. They read Goldsmith and Addison, Bacon and Locke, Shakespeare and Milton, and, above all, that wonderful English translation, King James' Bible.

They expressed themselves accurately and clearly because they read books which trained them to think accurately and clearly. If we would do the same we must follow their example, and drink deep of those wells of "English undefiled."

The library of this corporation was kept in one of the village stores. Your townsman, Col. Dudley K. Andross, says he remembers going with his mother to that library for the purpose of exchanging books, when it was kept in Deacon Prichard's old store. The books were kept, as he says, in a great case with double doors, which to his youthful eyes seemed as large as Moosilauke.

The organization seems to have fallen into decay. Its books were scattered, and there are no records of its action now to be found. It is surprising, however, that no mention of it is made in the History of Bradford, written in 1874 by the Rev. Dr. McKeen.

In some way which I have not been able to ascertain, a considerable number of its books passed into the posses-

sion of the Bradford Academy, and are now a part of the Merrill library in the graded high school. Some of them are in a good state of preservation, and bear the original label containing the regulations of the society, as follows:—

"BRADFORD SOCIAL LIBRARY SOCIETY.

"No. (240).

"Annual meeting last Monday in September, 2 o'clock P.M. Books must be returned Thursday before Annual Meeting, or 25 cents fine. May be drawn again on Annual Meeting days, immediately after adjournment. Other drawing days last Monday in November, January, March, May and July, last two hours before sunsetting. Books must be drawn before drawing time or 6 cents fine; and 1 cent a day till returned. May be drawn and returned on other days, at any time suitable for doing business. One volume drawn to a share. May be bid off at auction. Must be kept well covered by those who take them out. For lending a book out of the Society 34 cents. Drop of tallow on the letters 4 cents; on the margin 2 cents; for folding down a leaf 3 cents. Fines must be paid next drawing day after they are assessed or no books drawn."

On all the labels is written in a good hand, "Well covered or 4 cents fine."

The number of this label shows that the society had at least 240 books, and these were probably as great in number and value, in proportion to the population and valuation of the town, as the six hundred thousand volumes of the Boston Public Library are to the valuation of Boston, and

the population who are entitled to the use of that greatest free public library of the world.

The next library corporations incorporated in Vermont were the Fairhaven Library Society and the Rockingham Library Society, which were incorporated by the general assembly in October, 1799. The interest of the people of Vermont in libraries at that early day is clearly shown by the fact that, as early as November, 1800, a general law was passed incorporating library societies within the state. The preamble of this act, which was passed November 6, 1800, is as follows : —

“Whereas a number of petitions have been presented to this Legislature from various library societies in this state, praying to be incorporated into bodies corporate and politic forever, with such powers, privileges and immunities, as will best answer the laudable purposes for which they associated: Therefore to assist and encourage the said societies in the prosecution and advancement of useful knowledge, and rational entertainment, and to establish a uniformity through the various societies of the same kind, in this state.”

It is interesting to know that the charter of the Bradford Social Library Society was only two years later than the first library charter in Massachusetts, which was an act for incorporating certain persons by the name of the Boston Library Society, passed June 17, 1794.

Mass. Special Laws, p. 526.

If, as I believe, the history of a state is most accurately given in its statutes, it would seem that the people of Massachusetts were not as much interested in libraries at that

time, and had not as many social library societies, as the people of Vermont.

The Vermont general law of 1800 shows clearly the existence of a large number of societies, and was passed to enable them to become corporations.

The Massachusetts act, although entitled "An act to enable the proprietors of social libraries to manage the same," does not show the existence of any considerable number of library societies then existing.

Laws of Massachusetts, 1798, 819.

And there were in fact very few incorporated social library societies in Massachusetts prior to the passage of the general law of 1798.

Libraries considered merely as collections are not peculiar to modern civilization. They existed in Greece, Rome, Egypt, Assyria, and Babylon. Every nation of which history gives us knowledge had its collections of tablets or manuscripts which preserved the literary work of the time. The library of Nineveh consisted of more than ten thousand distinct works written upon tablets of clay, thousands of which have been recovered from the ruins and are now preserved in the British Museum.

The age of books came with the invention of papyrus paper more than two thousand years before the Christian era. Collections comprising hundreds of thousands of manuscript works were made in the palaces of kings and in the temples of the church. But these collections were for the rulers, scholars, and priests, and the people had but little benefit from them.

The public library "free to all" is peculiar to modern

civilization, and the circulating library, from which books may be taken for home use, is of comparatively recent date.

The great libraries of Europe are almost entirely for the use of scholars, and not for the circulation of books among the people.

It has seemed to me that a short sketch of the legislation in regard to public libraries, and of their development in England and in the United States, might perhaps be of interest to you at this time.

The first legislation in regard to furnishing books to the public at the public expense in England was an "injunction," so called, in September, 1537, for the providing of Bibles in every parish church throughout England, to be freely accessible to all parishioners, and the charges therefor to be borne by a parish book rate. This was followed by other "injunctions" for a like provision of certain other books. But the Restoration and the changes of government policy destroyed this attempt at popular education, and it was not until nearly two centuries after, in 1709, that Dr. Bray, the founder of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, succeeded in obtaining the passage of an act of Parliament, entitled "An act for the better preservation of parochial libraries in that part of Great Britain called England."

This act, however, only provided for the preservation of books which had been given the parishes, and not for their increase by public money. The conservative Englishman waited until 1849 before even a proposal was made to consider the question of public libraries. Then, after very great opposition, a select committee of Parliament was appointed on the best means of extending the establishment of libraries freely opened to the public, especially in large

towns. In 1850 the first English libraries act received the royal assent. This was a purely permissive act, authorizing town councils in municipalities having a population not less than ten thousand, if they saw fit to do so, to put to the voters the question whether they would have a library rate levied for providing a town library, and, if they voted in the affirmative, to levy a tax of a half-penny in the pound for that purpose.

In 1855 a new act was passed reducing the limit of population requisite for vote upon the establishment of a public library to five thousand, and raising the rate limit to one penny in the pound, and also providing that the money thus raised might be expended for books, newspapers, and specimens of art and science for a museum, as well as for buildings and expenses of management, to which last purposes the tax was limited by the act of 1850.

In 1866 an act was passed providing that any ten rate payers might require a meeting to be called to decide whether a library should be established, and reducing the vote necessary for that purpose from two thirds, which was required under the previous acts, to one half of the voters assembled, and also removing the limit of population.

Amendments more or less important have since been made in the law, but it remains to-day substantially the same, permissive only, and in no true sense a part of any system of free popular education.

There are no reliable statistics of public libraries in the United States prior to 1850. In that year the Smithsonian Institution published a monograph by Professor Jewett, entitled "Notices of Public Libraries."

This gave the number as 694, containing 2,201,632 volumes.

The census of 1850 stated the number, exclusive of school and Sunday-school libraries, at 1560, with 2,447,086 volumes; but in a summary of libraries published in 1856 by Mr. Edward Edwards, the number of libraries was given at only 342, though the number of volumes was 2,371,887, based upon the census of 1850.

In 1859 Mr. William J. Rhees published a manual of public libraries, and gave a list of 2902, of which, however, only 1312 reported the number of volumes they contained.

In 1867 a department of education was created by the United States, and in 1869 this was created a bureau of education.

In 1870 this bureau began the collection of statistics for a special report on public libraries, which was issued in 1876, before any regular library journal was printed in the United States.

This report gave a list of 3649 libraries of over 300 volumes each, with a total number of 12,276,964 volumes.

In the report of the United States Bureau of Education for 1884-5, the number of public libraries containing over 300 volumes each was stated to be 5388, containing 20,622,076 volumes, showing an increase during the preceding ten years of nearly 54 per cent in the number of libraries, and about 66 per cent in the number of volumes.

It is to be observed, however, that the libraries under 500 volumes included only about 20 per cent of the books, showing that the distribution of books was imperfect.

In 1886 the bureau reported 1777 libraries containing 1000 volumes or more, with 14,012,370 volumes in all.

Of the libraries thus reported, however, only 670, containing 6,963,850 volumes, were wholly or partly supported by public moneys, *i.e.*, by money raised by taxation,

but nearly all of these were free for public use. Of the remaining 1109 libraries, containing 7,048,520 volumes, only 868 required payment for use.

In 1887 there were nearly a thousand (911) free libraries, containing nearly nine million (8,896,620) volumes.

In 1891 there were 3804 public libraries, containing over 1000 volumes each, with 26,896,537 bound volumes and 4,340,817 pamphlets. The average size of these libraries was 8194 volumes, and the average population to a library was 16,463, making an average of 50 books to every 100 of the entire population of the United States.

The largest proportion of books to the population was in the District of Columbia, which had 924 books to every one hundred persons, due, doubtless, to the large collection of the Congressional Library; and the next largest proportion was in Massachusetts, where it was 257 to every one hundred persons.

In 1855 there were in the libraries of the United States having over one thousand volumes, 34 books to every one hundred persons of the population, while in 1891 the number had increased to 50 for each one hundred, or an increase of 47 per cent.

In the six New England states and New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania, the increase during the six years from 1885 to 1891 was 34 per cent, and in the Northwestern states, including Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Wyoming, Missouri, North and South Dakota, Nebraska, and Kansas, the increase was 65 per cent. On the whole, during that six years the increase of books in public libraries of this class was about 8 per cent greater than the increase of the population during the same period.

The first free public library in the United States was founded in New York in 1700 by a bequest from the Rev. John Sharpe, who bequeathed his books as the foundation of a public library. About thirty years after, an English clergyman, Dr. Millington, rector of Millington in the county of Surrey, gave his library to the "British Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts," for such disposition as they might think of the greatest public advantage. That society gave it to the municipal corporation of New York "for the use of the clergy and gentlemen of that city and neighbouring parts."

These gifts, however, were naturally little appreciated by the people of New York, though in 1754, probably stimulated by the establishment of a library in Philadelphia, subscriptions were made for the purchase of about 700 volumes in addition to the gifts above mentioned.

In 1772 the library was incorporated as the Society Library of New York, and made a proprietary library.

Not long after the establishment of the library in New York, James Logan, the friend and confidential adviser of William Penn, founded a public library in Philadelphia, to which another collection formed by his brother, Dr. William Logan, was added in 1776, and the combined collection was transferred to a corporation known as the Library Company, in 1792.

The idea that books, to be of real benefit, should be put into the hands of the people for use outside the library was first put into practical execution by Benjamin Franklin, who in 1731 established at Philadelphia the first effective circulating library, now known as "The Old Philadelphia Library." This was an association, or what was known as a "Society Library," supported by subscription, and was

the mother of all the North American subscription libraries subsequently formed, nearly a thousand in number.* Speaking of them in his autobiography, Franklin said, —

“These libraries have improved the general conversation of the Americans, have made the common tradesmen and farmers as intelligent as most gentlemen in other countries, and perhaps have contributed in some degree to the stand so generally made throughout the colonies in defence of their privileges.”

It was more than a hundred years after the establishment of proprietary or society libraries under the guidance of Franklin before the principle of taxing municipalities and school districts for the establishment and maintenance of libraries as public institutions free to all was advanced.

The first step in this direction was taken by the state of New York. In 1834, John A. Dix (afterwards General Dix), then superintendent of common schools in New York, in his official report recommended that school districts be authorized to levy a tax for the establishment of district libraries. He advised that this be made discretionary, because he said that, —

“by making the imposition of the tax wholly discre-

* The original subscribers were fifty in number, who each contributed forty shillings, and agreed to pay ten shillings annually. The number increased, and in 1742 the proprietors were incorporated as “The Library Company of Philadelphia.” Several other similar companies were afterwards formed in that city, and were finally united with the first, which, in 1806, had more than 14,000 volumes, and owned a commodious building.

Its shares were then forty dollars each, subject to an annual payment of two dollars, and there were over five hundred shareholders.

Travels in U.S. — *Melish* (1806), vol. 1. p. 164.

tionary with the inhabitants of each district, and leaving the selection of the works under their entire control, the danger of rendering such a provision subservient to the propagation of particular doctrines or opinions would be effectually guarded against by their own watchfulness and intelligence." *

Following this recommendation, a law was passed in 1835 authorizing an annual tax not to exceed twenty dollars in each district, and by the year 1853 the fund for the purchase of books under this act had grown to \$55,000 a year, and the libraries had accumulated 1,604,210 volumes. The interest in this subject then seemed to decrease, and from 1853 to 1857 there was an average yearly decrease of 56,569 volumes in the circulation. *

In 1852 the state of Indiana passed what was known as the "Education Law," which provided for a library tax of a quarter of a mill on all the taxable property, and a poll tax of a quarter of a dollar for the establishment of a free library in every civil township. Under this law each of the 690 townships in Indiana was supplied with a library containing 391 volumes.

In 1853 the state of Ohio, in its school law of that year, appropriated one tenth of a mill on the valuation of taxable property for state purposes to the establishment and maintenance of libraries in the common-school districts, purchases to be made, as was the case in Indiana, by the Department of Education.

Under this law, 245,887 volumes were distributed in 1858.

The original school law of the state of Wisconsin authorized each town superintendent in his discretion to apply

* Report Superintendent of Common Schools, New York, 1834.

not exceeding ten per cent of the gross amount of school money for the purchase of a school-district library. Before the close of the year 1854 over eight hundred little libraries had been formed under this law, but in 1859 a library law was enacted providing for a permanent town-school library fund, created by appropriating ten per cent of the income of the school fund annually and by a special annual state tax of a tenth of a mill on the taxable property. The libraries formed were to be town libraries, and the books to be purchased by the Department of Instruction.

It thus appears that, in the matter of free public libraries, as in many others relating to education, the New England states followed, and did not lead, the great states of the Northwest.

It was not until 1849 that New Hampshire authorized towns to levy taxes to support and maintain public libraries. Massachusetts did the same in 1851; Maine in 1854; Vermont in 1865; Rhode Island in 1867; Connecticut in 1869.*

These statutes, however, were permissive, and the towns used the power given by them very slowly. They all contained provisions authorizing towns to hold library property which might be given them, and the growth of town libraries in New England has been mainly by the transfer by library corporations and associations of their libraries to towns.

Public libraries have also, until within a very recent

* See Chapter 861, Laws New Hampshire, 1849.

Chapter 305, Laws Massachusetts, 1851.

Chapter 106, Laws of Maine, 1854.

Chapter 48, Laws of Vermont, 1865.

Chapter 668, Laws Rhode Island, 1867.

Chapter 65, Laws Connecticut, 1869.

period, been treated in New England as independent institutions having no necessary connection with popular education.

It is true that some of the states have had special provisions for the establishment of school libraries by school districts, and by towns in connection with schools where the district system has been abolished.*

But it is only within a very few years that the true purpose of the free public library as an adjunct of the free-school system has been recognized to any marked degree.

In 1875 Rhode Island provided that the board of education might cause money to be paid to free public libraries which should accept rules prescribed by the board as to the character of books and the manner of their management.†

In 1890 Massachusetts provided for the appointment of a board of state library commissioners to aid the librarian or trustees of any free public library, and with authority to expend from the state treasury a sum not exceeding one hundred dollars a year for books for any town having no free public library.‡

In 1892 this provision for state aid was extended to all towns which maintained a free library before the passage of the act of 1890.§

In 1891 New Hampshire provided for the appointment of a state board of library commissioners, with powers similar to those given the commissioners under the Massachu-

* Sections 2155, 2218, Gen. Sts. Conn. 1888.

† Chapter 464, Public Laws of Rhode Island, 1875.

Chapter 47, Public Statutes of Rhode Island, 1888.

‡ Chapter 347, Massachusetts Laws, 1890.

§ Chapter 254, Massachusetts Laws, 1892.

setts act. The New Hampshire act is substantially a copy of the Massachusetts act.*

In 1893 the state of Connecticut provided that the state board of education should annually appoint five persons as a public library commission, upon whose recommendation state aid should be given to free public libraries under certain conditions. It should be noted that this act specifically provides that no person shall be ineligible as trustee of a free public library or as a state commissioner on account of sex.

In 1894 Vermont provided for the appointment of a state board of library commissioners, and for limited appropriations to towns for free public libraries.†

In 1895 Maine provided for payments by the state treasurer to towns of ten per cent of the amount expended by them in the maintenance of free public libraries each year, the amount expended to be certified to the state treasurer by the town officers.‡

New Hampshire was the first, and thus far is the only state to require towns to levy taxes to establish and maintain free public libraries.

On March 29, 1895, the legislature of that state passed an act which provided that each town should assess annually a sum to be computed at the rate of thirty dollars for every dollar of the public taxes apportioned to such town, which sum so assessed should be appropriated to the sole purpose of establishing and maintaining a free public library.

* Chapter 62, New Hampshire Laws, 1891.

See Chapter 8, Public Statutes New Hampshire, 1891.

† No. 37, Vermont Laws, 1894.

‡ Chapter 45, Laws of Maine, 1895.

The word "library" is defined to include reference and circulating libraries, reading rooms, and museums.

Each town is required to elect a number of library trustees consisting of some number divisible by three, to be elected in classes, one third each year.

No person is ineligible as a trustee by reason of sex.

The trustees thus elected have the entire custody and management of the free public library and of the expenditure of the money raised by taxation, or of any money which may be given or otherwise received for the support thereof.*

This legislation shows how the people are slowly recognizing that public libraries are only means of public education, and that their true use is as a part of the system of popular education.

I believe the greatest future usefulness of the public library will be as an adjunct of the public schools.

A public library will come to be regarded as much a necessary part of the equipment of every town or city as schoolhouses and highways.

Books are valuable only as intelligently used, and the intelligent use of books is as much a matter of education as reading itself.

It is not enough to teach *how* to read. The child should also be taught *what* to read. This can be done, and in a community like this is done to a great extent, in the home. But it should also be done, and in many cases can only be done, in the schools.

One of the most competent and experienced educators in New England recently said to me that the chief value of the public library is in counteracting that specializing tendency of our time which makes every person a mere bit in

* Laws of New Hampshire, 1895, c. 118.

a huge mechanism, and that books are a school in which, freed from the direction of others, the young themselves choose what they need for their individual development.

And the librarian of our largest free public library recently said in a public address that he would trust the good book to make its way with readers against the bad book.

This is true if the reader has been educated to a knowledge of good and evil, to prefer the good book to the bad book. But without this it is not true. As soon trust the young to choose good companions instead of bad ones as to choose good books instead of bad ones.

I think it is within bounds to say that there are more books printed each year that ought to be burned than there are that ought to be read. It is not so difficult, however, to select those which ought to be read, as to induce readers to prefer them to those which ought to be burned.

The great library problem to-day is not how to select proper books, but *how to induce people to read them*. This can be done, I believe, only by teaching young people to read good books while they are in a teachable condition, — at home, in the schools, under the control and guidance of others.

Every public library should have such relation to the public schools that teachers may, through the use of the library, train their scholars to the knowledge and the use of good books, so that when they come to the independent use of the library they may know how to use it as a school in which each scholar does develop his individuality in the right and not in the wrong direction.

Reading is often only a form of idleness. To be of value, reading should be with a purpose, and not as a pastime. Without instruction in the choice and use of books the

child is inclined to treat them only as means of amusement, and this habit once formed is rarely broken.

There is no object for which the power of taxation can be more properly exercised than the public library. It is a benefit to all. The high school can be used by only a portion of those who enjoy the primary schools. But the library is for all who can read, and in our state all may read. The schools reach the citizen only in youth and during a short period of life, but the library extends its benefits throughout life.

No public money is more wisely spent than that which educates all to the proper use of good books, and furnishes all with good books for use.

The town library supported by taxation has many advantages over the private society library. The fact that all are required to contribute to its support according to their respective abilities gives all an interest in it. It is the property of all, and its success is a matter of local municipal pride. Even those who do not use it feel a pride in it as a town institution. The fact that it is a part of the municipal equipment makes it permanent. Libraries depending upon private contributions grow old and die like other business enterprises, but the town library no more grows old than the town itself. Its administration may not be at all times excellent, but it will recover from a poor management better than the private library. It cannot disappear, because it is a part of the town itself, and its administration will on the whole improve as the administration of the town improves with the intelligence of the inhabitants, which the library itself tends so much to increase.

Again, the town library is an object of the beneficence of those who wish to contribute to a permanent institution, to do something for the town. The experience in the

growth of libraries in New England has been that after they became town or city libraries they received far greater contributions of books and of money than before. A man will give to the town library of his native town because it is a town institution, when he would not think of giving to a private library of the same character in the town. Citizens of the town will labor for the town library, and will give to it when they would not labor for and give to a purely private enterprise.

The town library, if made a part of the common-school system of popular education, enters into and becomes a part of the educational life of every child in the town, and it is remembered in after life as the most pleasant part of early education.

In short, the town library properly administered in connection with the schools of the town becomes the most important educational and social factor in the life of the young people of the town, and as such is most likely to be the object of their support and of their contributions in after life.

The town library can fulfil a most important part in the preservation of local history. We are always making history, but we do not understand the importance of what is happening day by day. Local events are treated as of little importance at the time, and subsequently it is almost impossible to ascertain them accurately. A town library can gather and preserve the local history as it can be done in no other way. Suppose, for instance, that during the war for the suppression of the rebellion there had been a town library in this town, where everything relating to the history of the companies that went to the army from Bradford had been collected and preserved, to which the boys at the front would have been glad to send objects of inter-

est to be preserved, what an invaluable collection of local historical matter and of objects of interest to the present generation would have been naturally and easily gathered.

You have or can have all these advantages.

And you have the advantage over the large libraries in that you are not too large for the best use.

The small library is vastly more useful in proportion than the large library, not only because it can be more carefully selected, but principally because those who use it can have *more actual contact with it*. The use of a library through a catalogue is never quite satisfactory. The real use of books is in personal contact with them, and the ideal use of a public library is precisely the same as the use of the private library, where the reader comes in direct contact with the books, taking them from the shelves as he desires. This can be permitted only to a limited extent in the large library. For instance, it has so far been found possible in the Boston Public Library to permit personal access to only about ten thousand volumes of its collection of over six hundred thousand; but in the small town library there is no real reason why, under suitable restrictions and supervision, access may not be permitted to substantially all the books. I know this is an innovation, and it will be said that the public cannot be trusted thus far. But I am confident that if people are put upon their honor they may safely be trusted to handle and use their own books. Once make the people of a town understand that the books *are theirs*, and permit them *to treat them as theirs*, and you can insure the loss from their ill treatment of them for a small part of what it will cost for an attendant to handle the books for them.

I believe that, if you trust the people and make the library theirs, it will be as permanent as the state, and will

be the most effective safeguard of the integrity and permanence of the state itself.

May the building we this day dedicate, long stand as a memorial of him who gave it, and of all who have aided in its construction.

May it become the centre of your educational and social life.

May the people of this town ever hold it high above sectarian difference or party strife.

May youth learn its lessons at the portals of this building, mature life find here instruction and help for its duties, and old age seek constant comfort within its quiet walls.

APPENDIX 1.

John L. Woods, late of Cleveland, Ohio, by the twenty-fifth item of his last will and testament, made the following provision : —

“ *Twenty-fifth.* I give and bequeath to the Trustees of the Bradford Public Library, of Bradford, Vermont, Fifteen Thousand Dollars (\$15,000) upon the following conditions, namely :

“ That said Trustees procure in fee simple and free from debt a large and suitable lot of land centrally located to accommodate the whole village for a library building and grounds, and shall proceed to construct thereon a good and suitable library building, said building to have two floors, the lower floor to have liberal room for the accommodation of the library and a reading room connected, the latter to be supplied with the best papers and periodicals in sufficient quantities to fully accommodate the patrons. These rooms to be open every afternoon and evening, including Sunday ; a capable man to be at all times employed to attend to the wants of the patrons and take charge of the building and contents. On the second floor a good convenient hall to be finished and furnished for the accommodation of entertainments, such as lectures, concerts, public meetings, and such other amusements as the trustees may deem best for the general interest and welfare of the community ; a rental to be charged for the use of the hall, ranging according to the character of the entertainment for which it is used ; the rents to be applied to the support of the building, library and reading room. Then not more than Seven Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$7,500) of the Fifteen Thousand Dollars (\$15,000) above named may be applied towards the cost of said building, the same to be paid by me or my executors as the work progresses.

“ I further direct that upon the full completion of said buildings, as above provided, the balance of said Fifteen Thousand Dollars (\$15,000) shall be paid to said Trustees, and shall be by them invested and re-invested as a permanent endowment fund, to be known as the “ John L. Woods Endowment Fund ;” and the income thereof applied by said Trustees to the purchase of books and the expenses of the library and reading room.”

Subsequent to the execution of said will he wrote the following letter : —

CLEVELAND, Ohio, March 18, 1893.

“ *To the Trustees of The Bradford Public Library.*

“ Gentlemen : Finding that some of the provisions in my will for the proposed new building for the public library would have been different had I been fully informed as to the situation, and not desiring to change my will, I make this declaration, that, in consideration of the Trustees assenting to the proposals made by me herein, and undertaking on their part to execute the same, I hereby agree, in lieu of the provisions in that regard made in my will, as follows :

“ I give and will pay to the Trustees of the Bradford Public Library Fifteen Thousand Dollars (\$15,000) upon the following conditions, to wit : That said Trustees procure in fee simple and free from debt a large and suitable lot of ground centrally located to accommodate the whole village, for a library building and grounds, and shall proceed to construct thereon a good and suitable library building. Said building to have liberal room for the accommodation of the library and a reading room connected, the latter to be supplied with the best papers and periodicals in sufficient quantities to fully accommodate the patrons, these rooms to be open every afternoon and evening, including Sunday, and a capable man to be at all times employed to attend to the wants of the patrons, and take charge of the building

and contents. Then not more than Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000) of the Fifteen Thousand Dollars (\$15,000) above mentioned may be applied towards the cost of said building, to be paid by me or my executors during the summer of 1894 and winter following, or at an earlier date, if found necessary, subject to the convenience of my estate; and I direct my executors to execute this agreement in place of the provisions in my last will in that regard.

“And I further agree that, upon the full completion of said building as above provided for, the balance of said Fifteen Thousand Dollars (\$15,000) shall be paid to said Trustees, and shall be by them invested and re-invested as a permanent endowment fund to be known as the ‘John L. Woods Endowment Fund,’ the income thereof to be applied to the purchase of books, papers and expenses of the library and reading room.

“JOHN L. WOODS.”

APPENDIX 2.

Names of the Members of “The Ladies’ Library Association of Bradford, Vermont,” established in January, 1875.

Mrs. G. R. Andross.	Mrs. J. H. Howe.
Mrs. James Armstrong.	Mrs. Charles Jones.
Mrs. Albert Bailey.	Mrs. L. F. Jones.
Mrs. Eliza A. Barrett.	Miss Abby Johnson.
Mrs. George L. Butler.	Miss Julia Johnson.
Mrs. Victor Bagley.	Mrs. Will Johnson.
Miss Marian Corliss.	Mrs. Stillman Jenne.
Mrs. C. H. Curtis.	Miss Corinne Leavitt.
Mrs. Caroline Chandler.	Mrs. L. D. Livingston.
Mrs. D. W. Cobb.	Mrs. H. C. McDuffee.
Mrs. John Craig.	Mrs. George F. Morris.
Mrs. H. G. Day.	Miss Ellen Morse.

Mrs. William Eastman.	Miss Lucy Nelson.
Mrs. Edwin Fuller.	Mrs. A. Osborne.
Mrs. W. E. Gage.	Mrs. Lucia Peaslee.
Mrs. Orrin Gambell.	Mrs. Mary S. Prichard.
Mrs. Henry Grey.	Mrs. Edgar Rowell.
Mrs. Zeeb Gilman.	Mrs. E. C. Redington.
Mrs. L. F. Hale.	Miss Lucia B. Rodgers.
Mrs. C. H. Harding.	Mrs. Emma Rogers.
Miss Hattie Horner.	Mrs. John Sanborn.
Mrs. George Hardy.	Miss Sarah J. Shaw.
Mrs. John Hardy.	Miss Marcella Shepardson.
Mrs. Asa Howard.	Mrs. J. E. Sleeper.
Mrs. Lucy H. Smith.	Mrs. Joseph Tibbetts.
Mrs. John C. Stearns.	Mrs. Bert Underwood.
Mrs. Alden Stevens.	Miss Lydia E. White.
Mrs. Anson Stevens.	Mrs. Alfred E. Winship.
Mrs. Harry B. Stevens.	Mrs. K. K. Wilson.
Mrs. Charles S. Stevens.	Miss Fannie Woodward.
Mrs. William B. Stevens.	Miss Sophia B. Woodward.
Mrs. Elsie L. Young.	

APPENDIX 3.

Constitution of "Ladies' Library Association," adopted January 3, 1880.

Art. 1. Name. This society shall be known as the "Ladies' Library
Amended Association."
Mch. 5, 1881.

Any person may become a member of this Association by
Art. 2. signing the constitution and paying an annual fee of
Members. one dollar, but only those who have reached the age
of majority shall have a right to vote on any business questions.

The officers of this Association shall be a President, a Secre-
Art. 3. tary, a Treasurer, a Librarian and an Executive Com-
Officers. mittee of three, all to be chosen at the annual meet-

ing and to hold their office for one year or until their successors are chosen. All members of the society who have reached the age of majority shall be eligible to office. No person shall hold more than two offices at one time.

Amended Jan.
17, 1880.

It shall be the duty of the President to preside at all of the meetings of the society, to have a general oversight of its affairs, and in connection with the executive committee to provide lectures and other entertainments for the purpose of raising funds, and to perform such other duties as usually belong to the President to perform.

Art. 4.
Duties of
President.

It shall be the duty of the Secretary to keep a full record of the proceedings of the Association at all of its business meetings; to preside over such meetings in the absence of the President and to give notice of meetings.

Art. 5.
Duties of
Secretary.

It shall be the duty of the Treasurer to invest in the name of the society the Pearson fund, and such other funds as may come to the Association, by the advice of the Executive Committee, in a manner that shall be perfectly safe and yield the largest annual income. The

Art. 6.
Duties of
Treasurer.
Amended Jan.
17, 1880.

Treasurer shall collect all annual fees, fines and other dues from the members of the society, and collect and have charge of all money belonging to the society, and shall pay all bills on the written order of the Executive Committee. The Treasurer shall keep in a book for that purpose, a full and accurate account of all her doings and make full report thereof at the annual meeting, or oftener as called upon by the society.

It shall be the duty of the Librarian to have the care of all the books of the society and the room in which they are kept; to let them out to its members and others under the rules of the society; to keep an accurate record in a book for that purpose of all the books loaned and of their return; to make an annual report in writing of the condition of the library, the number of books missing, etc., and from time to time, to give to the treasurer a list of the fines to be collected.

Art. 7.
Librarian.

It shall be the duty of the Executive Committee to make se-

Art. 8.
Duties of Executive Committee.
Amended Feb. 14, 1880.
Amendment expunged, Jan. 8, 1885.

lections of books to be purchased for the library; to act in connection with the President in procuring lectures and other entertainments; to issue orders to the Treasurer for the payment of bills and to do all extraordinary business not devolving on the other officers.

Art. 9.
Annual meeting.
Amended Jan. 1, 1881.
Hour of meeting.

The annual meeting of the society shall be held on the first Saturday in each year at 3 o'clock P.M. at the library room of the society, unless some other place is designated by the Executive Committee. And in case the annual meeting is omitted by any accident on the day named the Executive Committee may direct the Secretary to call a meeting at any time in the month of January but not after.

Art. 10.
Special meetings.

Special meetings may be called at any time on the request of three members in writing to the President or Secretary.

Art. 11.
Notices.

Notices of meetings shall be published in the Bradford paper if there is one, once at least within ten days prior to the meeting or be posted five days before the meeting in at least three public places in Bradford Village.

Art. 12.
Amendments.

This constitution may be amended by a two-thirds vote at any annual meeting, or upon notice at any special meeting.

Amendments.

Art. 3.
Amended Jan. 17, 1880.

The officers of the Association shall be a President, a Secretary, a Treasurer, a Librarian and an Executive Committee of three, all to be chosen at the annual meeting and to hold their office for one year or until their successors are appointed. All members of the society who have reached the age of majority shall be eligible to office, *the balance of the offices always being in the hands of the ladies.* No person to hold more than two offices at one time.

It shall be the duty of the Treasurer to invest in the name of

Art. 6. the society *any* funds that may come to the Associa-
 Amended Jan. tion by the advice of the Executive Committee in a
 17, 1880. manner that shall be perfectly safe and yield the
 largest income. (The rest of the Art. unchanged.)

This society shall be known as the Bradford Public Library

Art. 1. Association.

Art. 9. All business meetings shall be held at 2 o'clock
 Amended Jan. P.M.
 1, 1881.

By-Laws of Ladies' Library Association.

Adopted 1880, The library shall be open every Saturday afternoon
 Jan. 3.
 1st. at 3 o'clock for the drawing of books.

Books must be returned in four weeks; if kept longer the
 2d. party detaining them must pay to the Treasurer a fine
 of five cents per week.

Persons not residents of Bradford can draw books on paying
 to the Librarian ten cents and depositing with the
 3d. Librarian the sum of one dollar. Such books may
 Rescinded Jan. 2, 1886. be kept the same length of time as others.

The library shall be open to all residents of Bradford not
 4th. members of the Library Association at the rate of
 three cents per week.

No person shall be allowed more than one book at any one
 5th. drawing on a single membership.

No books to be loaned to any person not a member of the
 6th. Association.

That the Librarian be authorized to appoint an assistant who
 shall have the same power as the Librarian in her
 7th. absence.
 Added Feb. 14, 1880.

*List of Officers of Ladies' Library Association of Bradford,
Vermont, from 1880 to 1895.*

1880.

President, Mrs. R. FARNHAM.

Secretary, Mrs. CHARLES JONES.

Treasurer, Mrs. L. F. HALE.

Librarian, Mrs. PHIN. CHAMBERLIN.

Executive Committee :

Mrs. L. M. PEASLEE,

Mrs. MARIA L. HARDY,

Mrs. CHARLES JONES.

1881.

President, Mrs. R. FARNHAM.

Secretary, Mrs. A. A. DOTY.

Treasurer, Mrs. ELLEN M. BAILEY.

Librarian, Miss ANNA STEVENS.

Executive Committee :

Mrs. L. M. PEASLEE,

Mrs. CHARLES JONES,

Mrs. E. A. BARRETT.

1882.

President, Mrs. R. FARNHAM.

Secretary, Mrs. A. A. DOTY.

Treasurer, Miss CORINNE LEAVITT.

Librarian, Miss ANNA STEVENS.

Executive Committee :

Mrs. ELIZA A. BARRETT,

Mrs. H. M. DICKEY,

Mrs. ORISSA J. PRICHARD.

1883.

President, Mrs. ELIZA A. BARRETT.

Secretary, Mrs. M. L. M. TIBBETTS.

Treasurer, Mrs. MARIA L. HARDY.

Librarian, Miss I. M. PATTISON.

Asst. Librarian, Mrs. J. H. WATSON.

Executive Committee :

Mrs. ROSWELL FARNHAM,

Mrs. H. M. DICKEY,

Mrs. ORISSA J. PRICHARD.

1884.

President, Mrs. ELIZA A. BARRETT.

Secretary, Mrs. M. L. M. TIBBETTS.

Treasurer, Miss ANNA STEVENS.

Librarian, Miss SADIE HASKINS.

Executive Committee :

Mrs. ROSWELL FARNHAM,

Mrs. H. M. DICKEY,

Miss C. E. STRICKLAND.

1885.

President, Mrs. E. A. BARRETT. Secretary, Mrs. M. L. M. TIBBETTS.
 Treasurer, Miss ANNA STEVENS. Librarian, Miss EFFIE A. WRIGHT.

Executive Committee :

Mrs. ROSWELL FARNHAM, Miss C. E. STRICKLAND,
 Mrs. J. B. PECKETT.

1886.

President, Mrs. ORISSA J. PRICHARD. Secretary, Mrs. H. C. McDUFFEE.
 Treasurer, Miss I. M. PATTISON. Librarian, Miss EFFIE A. WRIGHT.

Executive Committee :

Miss C. E. STRICKLAND, Mrs. J. B. PECKETT,
 Mrs. H. M. DICKEY.

1887.

President, Mrs. ORISSA J. PRICHARD. Secretary, Mrs. M. L. M. TIBBETTS.
 Treasurer, Mrs. H. C. McDUFFEE. Librarian, Mrs. E. A. BARRETT.

Executive Committee :

Miss C. E. STRICKLAND, Mrs. J. B. PECKETT,
 Mrs. H. M. DICKEY.

1888.

President, Mrs. ORISSA J. PRICHARD. Secretary, Mrs. M. L. M. TIBBETTS.
 Treasurer, Mrs. H. C. McDUFFEE. Librarian, Mrs. E. A. BARRETT.

Executive Committee :

Miss C. E. STRICKLAND, Mrs. H. M. DICKEY,
 Mrs. R. FARNHAM.

1889.

President, Mrs. ORISSA J. PRICHARD. Secretary, Mrs. JANETTE C. HAY.
 Treasurer, Mrs. H. C. McDUFFEE. Librarian, Mrs. E. A. BARRETT.

Executive Committee :

Mrs. H. M. DICKEY, Mrs. ROSWELL FARNHAM,
 Mrs. M. L. M. TIBBETTS.

1890.

President, Mrs. WM. B. STEVENS. Secretary, Mrs. JANETTE C. HAY.
 Treasurer, Mrs. H. C. McDUFFEE. Librarian, Miss MAUDE CLARKE.
 Feb. 11, Mrs. W. B. LADD.

Executive Committee :

Mrs. H. M. DICKEY, Mrs. ROSWELL FARNHAM,
Mrs. M. L. M. TIBBETTS.

1891.

President, Mrs. H. C. McDUFFEE. Secretary, Mrs. JANETTE C. HAY.
Treasurer, Mrs. E. A. BARRETT. Librarian, Mrs. W. B. LADD.

Executive Committee :

Mrs. G. A. DICKEY, Mrs. M. L. M. TIBBETTS,
Mrs. ROSWELL FARNHAM.

1892.

President, Mrs. H. C. McDUFFEE. Secretary, Mrs. JANETTE C. HAY.
Treasurer, Mrs. E. A. BARRETT. Librarian, Mrs. W. B. LADD.
July, Mrs. M. J. JENKINS.

Executive Committee :

Mrs. G. A. DICKEY, Mrs. M. L. M. TIBBETTS,
Mrs. ROSWELL FARNHAM.

1893.

President, Mrs. H. C. McDUFFEE. Secretary, Mrs. ORISSA J. PRICHARD.
Treasurer, Mrs. E. A. BARRETT. Librarian, Miss MAY PILLSBURY.

Executive Committee :

Mrs. LAURA M. DICKEY, Mrs. M. L. M. TIBBETTS,
Mrs. ROSWELL FARNHAM.

1894.

President, Mrs. H. C. McDUFFEE. Secretary, Mrs. ORISSA J. PRICHARD.
Treasurer, Mrs. E. A. BARRETT. Librarian, Miss MAY PILLSBURY.

Executive Committee :

Mrs. LAURA M. DICKEY, Mrs. M. L. M. TIBBETTS,
Mrs. ROSWELL FARNHAM.

APPENDIX 4.

The information contained in the following sketches of the signers of the Library petition is derived from a search of the Bradford town records, records of the Academy, church records, McKen's "History of Bradford," Hall's "Eastern Vermont," Hoskin's "History of Vermont," Hayward's "New England Gazetteer," Thompson's "Gazetteer of Vermont," Thompson's "Vermont," Slade's "Vermont State Papers," Walton's "Governor and Council," Miss Hemenway's "History of Vermont," Child's "Orange County Gazetteer," and from correspondence with descendants of the signers now living in different parts of the Union. The information for the sketches which are starred has been collected by Mr. H. C. McDuffee.

MICAH BARRON, the first signer of this petition, was the then representative of Bradford in the General Assembly. He was born in Tyngsboro, Mass., and settled in Bradford in 1788, as a merchant. He was for forty-three years a sheriff, and for four years high sheriff of the county. He died at Bradford, November 26, 1839, at the age of seventy-seven years.

* JOHN BANFILL came from Sanbornton, N.H., or its vicinity, about 1780. He was a physician, and located on a farm, now owned by Robert Fulton, in that part of the town known as Goshen, and practised his profession until about the year 1800, when he moved to the neighboring town of Corinth, where he died in 1817. He married Sarah Witcher, who survived him and died at ninety years of age. Dr. Banfill and his wife were both buried in the Corinth Center cemetery. They had four sons—John, Benjamin, David and Mark; and Mrs. Prunella Celley, daughter of the eldest son, John, now eighty-five years of age, lives in Fairlee, Vt.

* BENJAMIN LITTLE was born March 18, 1737. He was a

millers, and also engaged in trade in Haverhill, Mass. Afterwards he removed to Salem, N.H., and from there he went to Bradford as early as 1792. The town records show a certificate dated April 14, 1792, signed by Edward Bass, minister of Newburyport, Mass., showing that Benjamin Little was a member of the Protestant Episcopal church of that place.

He bought a farm, in that part of the town known as Goshen, of Ebenezer Olmstead, which is now known as the "Moody Grow farm," and lived there until his death, March 19, 1809. He was an influential and respected citizen, and was buried in the cemetery on the upper plain.

* EBENEZER METCALF was a descendant in the sixth generation from Leonard Metcalf, who was rector at Norwood, England, from 1611 to 1616. He was born in Massachusetts, January 25, 1763, and was a son of Samuel Metcalf, a soldier in the revolutionary war. He lived for a time at Enfield, Conn., and from there came to Mooretown, and bought land as early as 1792. He was engaged in rafting lumber and merchandise on the Connecticut to Hartford, Conn., and other market-places, for some years, and was at one time in trade in Bradford. Afterwards he moved to Corinth, to the farm where Alpheus Metcalf, his nephew, now lives, where he died in 1809.

* CALEB PUTNAM was a shoemaker. He came from Massachusetts at a very early date and bought a place on the lower plain. His shop was nearly opposite the house where Mr. Albee now lives. In 1796 he appears to have sold his place to William Case, and to have removed from town.

* HIRAM PEARSON was a tanner. He came to Bradford from Orford, N.H., in 1796, and bought a place of Ephraim Martin on Rowell brook, near the foot of Sharp's hill. He appears to have sold this place and to have removed from the town about 1802.

* JOSEPH CLARK was born August 9, 1751, and was one of the earliest settlers of Mooretown. He lived about a mile south of the village on the lower plain, in a log house. Afterwards he built a frame house near by, where he lived until he died, December 4, 1835, at the age of eighty-five years. This house is still standing, and has always been known as the "Joseph Clark house."

He held the office of selectman more years than any other citizen, and at different times held nearly all the town offices. He was a farmer and a good mechanic. He was one of the committee of the town who superintended the rebuilding of the Baldwin bridge, first constructed in 1782, and washed away in 1803. The tax voted by the town for the rebuilding of the bridge was to be "paid in neat stock, wheat, or Indian corn." He was also one of the contractors with the town to build a meeting house on the upper plain in 1793. He married Sarah Mussey of Corinth, who died March 18, 1833, at the age of seventy-four years.

* PATRICK KENEDY was a revolutionary soldier, and appears to have come to Bradford before 1786, for at that time he owned what is known as the "Thomas R. Andross farm" on the lower plain. This he sold to Ebenezer Olmstead March 17, 1786, and afterwards lived for several years on the South road, so called. From there he moved to the house now owned by Homer S. McDuffee, on the upper plain, where he lived until he died, August 29, 1836, aged seventy-six years.

He appears by the records to have been a member of the Baptist church in 1792, and is thought to have come to America from Ireland. He and his wife were buried in the Bradford cemetery.

* JOHN PECKETT was born in England about 1765, and came to America with his father, Giles Peckett, when he was nine years of age. His parents first settled in North Haverhill, and removed to Mooretown about 1779, and settled on the lower plain. John Peckett became a blacksmith, and had his shop for

many years near the east end of the Baldwin bridge. He cast his first vote in 1789, and was an active and influential citizen. He married Thankful Martin, and died in 1827. He was buried in the cemetery on the upper plain.

* EBENEZER HIDDEN was a mechanic. He settled on a river farm on the upper plain, and built a shop on Roaring brook. He afterwards sold out to Manasseh and Israel Willard, who used the shop for a chair factory. The place was subsequently known as the "Willard place." After this sale Mr. Hidden removed from Bradford to Windsor, Vt.

* HERBERT ORMSBEE came from Woodstock, Conn., with his father, Ichabod Ormsby, in 1774, and settled in Fairlee, on a farm where William E. S. Celley now lives. In 1794 he came to Bradford and settled on a farm, which he bought of his father, on the lower plain. Dr. Joseph Ormsby, one of the early settlers of Corinth, and Robert McK. Ormsby, afterwards a prominent lawyer in Bradford, were cousins of Herbert Ormsby.

JOHN BARRON was perhaps the most influential of the early settlers of the town. He took an active part in procuring its charter, was its first representative in the General Assembly in 1788, and was a delegate to the convention to consider the adoption of the United States Constitution, in December, 1790. He first settled on the meadow in the bow of the Connecticut in the southeast corner of the town, where he was living at the time of the Declaration of Independence. He was also an inn-keeper for many years. He died in 1813, at the age of sixty-nine years.

* EZEKIEL LITTLE was the son of Benjamin Little, and became owner of the farm in Goshen where his father, Benjamin Little, had lived and died. He was born July 28, 1762. He graduated at Harvard College in 1784, and was for many years a successful teacher in the Boston schools. Edward Everett

was at one time his pupil. He was the author of an arithmetic which was entitled, "The Usher," published at Exeter, N.H., in 1799. He sold his farm in Goshen to John and Adams Wilson, November 28, 1826, and the last years of his life he lived at Atkinson, N.H., where he died in March, 1840, at the age of seventy-eight years.

In 1826, Mr. Little was chosen one of the fence-viewers in Bradford, and the records show that he and Joseph Clark divided fence for several parties. He was a grandson of George Little, who came from London and settled in Newbury, Mass., in 1640. George Wright, the late Rev. John Sullivan Little, and Anna and Ellen McDuffee, all of Bradford, are also descendants of George Little.

* ARAD STEBBINS was one of the earliest physicians of the town. He was born in Hinsdale, N.H., and was practising in Bradford in 1790. He built a large house at the north end of the village, which was subsequently kept as a hotel, known as the "Vermont house." He died in 1828, at the age of sixty-eight years.

The only notice of the Library Society of 1796 which I have been able to find in the history of Bradford is contained in the sketch of Dr. Stebbins, which states that, while the doctor was walking home alone from a Library Society meeting one dark evening, he stepped off the side of a bridge across a ravine, which has since been filled up, across the main street just north of the churches, and received a concussion of the brain, from which he never recovered, although he lived for ten or eleven years longer.*

GARDINER KELLOGG was the first settled minister of the town. He was hired under a peculiar vote, passed at a town meeting called October 12, 1793, which was:

"Voted to hire some preaching this fall, if some candidate should chance to come this way."

* McKeen's "History of Bradford," p. 395.

Referring to this vote, Dr. McKeen quaintly says, "It seems that Mr. Gardiner Kellogg chanced to come along, and was employed."

He was first hired for no stated time, then for three months. In September, 1794, he was settled at a salary of two hundred pounds a year in labor and materials for a house, part to be paid in a year, part in two years, and the remainder in three years. His salary was fixed at fifty pounds for the first year, to increase by the addition of five pounds till it amounted to seventy-five pounds, or \$375, as a regular salary. One fourth of this was to be paid in money, the remainder in wheat at five shillings a bushel, or neat stock equivalent. He remained as the settled clergyman of the town until 1809, when he removed to Maine. He was the first and only minister who was supported by the town as such.

ANDREW B. PETERS was born at Hebron, Conn., in 1764, and came to Bradford with his parents when about seven years old, or in 1771. His father was a Royalist, and at the revolution went to Nova Scotia, and his son was in the king's service during the war. After the peace he returned to Bradford and became town clerk in 1798, which office he held for forty of the ensuing forty-six years. He died in 1851, at the age of eighty-seven years.

ROBERT HUNKINS, known as Captain Hunkins, was one of the earliest settlers. He was a soldier in the French and Indian wars and was a member of Capt. Moses Hazen's company under General Stark. He settled on the river in the northeast part of the town, where he died in 1818, at the age of eighty years. He was born in Haverhill, Mass. He was one of the town committee to raise twenty pounds for charges for preaching in 1782, and was a very prominent and influential citizen.

* LEVI ANDROS was a son of Dr. Bildad Andross, with whom he came to Bradford from Westminster, Vt., in 1775.

He was a highway overseer in 1776, and afterwards held important town offices. About 1784 he removed to Fairfax, Vt., but after a few years returned to Bradford and bought a portion of his father's farm on the lower plain, where he lived until his death, June 7, 1812.

The "Andros landing," so called, where produce and lumber were shipped to market on rafts down the Connecticut river, was on this farm.

* JOSEPH JOHNSON was one of the earliest settlers of the town. He held the office of selectman, and was also a lister, and owned land in the west part of the town, where he probably lived. He was a Baptist, and the records of that church show that he had two children, who were baptized July 27, 1800. There is also a written statement signed by him in the town records as follows: "This will certify to all whom it may concern that I do not agree in sentiments of religion with the majority of the people in this place." Such a statement was required at that time from all persons not willing to pay a tax to support the Congregational church. He removed from the town, but it is impossible now to ascertain when or to what place.

BENJAMIN P. BALDWIN (probably Benjamin Peters Baldwin) was born in Orford in 1767. He was a school teacher, subsequently a surveyor, and was prominent in all town affairs during a long life. He died in 1853, at the age of eighty-seven years.

* BENJAMIN WHITCOMB lived in Bradford as early as 1791, at which time the birth of his first child is recorded. But little can be ascertained with regard to him, and it does not appear what his business was, or that he owned real estate in the town.

* WILLIAM PECKETT was born in England, and came to America with his parents when he was a child. They first settled in North Haverhill, and after a few years came to Moore-

town in 1779. His parents lived on the lower plain in a house known as "the shingled house," because covered with shingles to the ground, which was near where Joel Morris lived for many years, and is now owned and occupied by Wesley Smith.

His father and mother were members of the Methodist church, his mother having been for many years before marriage a housekeeper for John Wesley. She is said to have been a very superior woman, and was the founder of the Methodist church in Bradford. William was one of the members of the first Methodist class formed in Bradford, and afterwards became a Methodist preacher of considerable ability. He took the free-man's oath and voted in Bradford in 1794.

* WILLIAM CASE was a carpenter. In 1796 he bought of Caleb Putnam the place now owned by T. J. Albee, on the River road, where he lived for several years, and then moved to Piermont, N.H. George R. Andross of Bradford is his grandson.

JOHN BLISS was probably the young man who was drowned while at work upon a bridge across Wait's river in 1803. He was a son of Ellis Bliss, Jr., a revolutionary soldier, who settled in the south part of the town shortly after the revolution.*

* THOMAS PILSBURY was a farmer, and appears by the town records to have lived in Bradford from 1781 to about 1800. The records show that he received a deed of his land in 1792 from the committee appointed by the state to convey lands to the settlers in town. The records also show that his sheep mark was a hole in the right ear, and the letters T. P. burned into the right fore hoof. He apparently moved from Bradford shortly after the year 1800.

He had five children — Moses, Betsey, Martha, James, and Lydia.

* McKeen's History, p. 224.

JOHN UNDERWOOD settled in Bradford in 1784, and built a log cabin on the south border of the town, where he lived until his death in 1837 at the age of eighty-three years. He was town clerk in 1791, 1792, 1793.

* TIMOTHY AYER came from Haverhill, Mass., about 1780, and settled on a farm on the South road, where William Martin now lives. He was a farmer, and by industry and frugality accumulated quite a property. He held many town offices, and died on the farm where he had lived so many years, February 13, 1835, at the age of ninety-two years. He married Elizabeth White, who died August 11, 1835, at the age of eighty-nine years. They had four children, John, Timothy, Nicholas, and Betsey, who, with their parents, are all buried in the Bradford cemetery, and there are no descendants or relatives of Timothy Ayer in Bradford.

* JEPHTHA SHARP was a colored man and a blacksmith. He came from Massachusetts to "Charlestown No. 4," and from there to Bradford in 1778 or 1779. He came on horseback, and is said to have stuck a willow riding stick which he carried into the ground at the side of the road, near the place where Mrs. Hartwell Farr now lives, and not far from where he afterwards built a house and blacksmith shop. This willow grew to be a very large tree, and many persons now living remember it as "Sharp's willow." His shop, supposed to be the first in town, was near the top of the hill on the South road, and that hill was named "Sharp's hill" from that fact, and has been called by that name ever since.

Mr. Sharp appears to have bought several pieces of land, and was one of the petitioners to the legislature for a committee to convey the land to the settlers. It was from this committee that he received a deed of a portion of his land. He remained in town between thirty and forty years, and is remembered by a few of the oldest inhabitants as having been a very useful and worthy member of society.

He had five children, and he removed from Bradford to Lancaster, N.H., about the year 1816. He took the freeman's oath and voted, but does not appear to have held any town offices.

EPHRIM MARTIN was born in Goffstown, N.H., and was one of the earliest settlers of Mooretown. He first located about where the centre of the village now is, and owned a considerable strip of land on the main road, and a large part of the meadows easterly along Wait's river. He owned the first grist mill on Wait's river, where the brick mill which was owned by the late John B. Peckett now stands. His house was on the main road where the Bliss tavern was afterwards erected, and his orchard was on the opposite side, where the Bradford bank, and at a later day the savings bank, were situated. He died in 1832, at the age of eighty-five years.

His son, William B. Martin, lived in town in 1888, with his son-in-law, J. F. Cushman, at the age of eighty-six years.*

* LEMWELL ORSBORN was a farmer, and came from Piermont, N.H., and settled in Bradford at an early day. The town records show that he was elected tything man in 1786. He lived on the farm where Harry E. Kelley now lives, on the River road. He died in 1848, at the age of eighty-nine years, and his wife, who was Lydia Kelley of Bradford, died in 1871, at the age of ninety-two years.

Mrs. Merritt Davis, Mrs. Hartwell Farr, and Mrs. Joanna Welton, now of Bradford, are among their descendants.

* BENJAMIN BALDWIN was born in Hebron, Conn., in 1733. He first removed to Thetford, Vt., then to Orford, N.H., and from there came to Bradford about 1768. May 29, 1777, he was sent by the town as one of the delegates to the convention held at Windsor, and which framed the constitution of July 2, 1777. He was also a member of the first Assembly, which met at Windsor on March 12, 1778, and was chosen

* Child's "Orange County Gazetteer," pp. 177, 178.

clerk of that body on March 13, in place of Thomas Chandler, who had been appointed secretary of state.*

At the next session of the Assembly, which was held at Bennington, June 17, 1778, Mr. Baldwin was appointed one of the four judges of a special court for the shire of Newbury. He was a member not only of the first and of the second legislature, but was also a member during the years 1780, 1783, and 1784.

He was town clerk of Bradford in 1782, 1783, 1788, and 1789. He was also clerk of the county court at one time, and resigned at the June term in 1783. October 27, 1785, he was one of the committee of inspection appointed by the legislature to give title to settlers on the gore of land between Corinth and Mooretown.

In 1774, Mr. Baldwin built the first sawmill in town, and a sawmill has existed at that spot ever since; the original dam being, it is said, still in use. The mill and bridge across Wait's river have always been called "Baldwin's mill," and "Baldwin's bridge." He also built a two-story house on Wait's river road, now owned by Ellis B. Shumway, which must be at least one hundred and fifteen years old. He lived in this house and kept a hotel for many years, and died there February 22, 1818, at the age of eighty-five years. He married Lydia Peters, who was born in Hebron, Conn. Jesse A. and George W. Baldwin, now living in Bradford, are their descendants.

* DAVID BLISS was born June 17, 1763, in Hebron, Conn., and came to Bradford in 1787. He was a farmer, and lived at one time on the South road. In 1815, he moved to Springwater, N.Y., where he died March 18, 1835, at the age of seventy-two years. He was a grandson of the Rev. John Bliss of Hebron, Conn., from whom Joseph Bliss and family of Bradford are descendants.

MOSES CHAMBERLIN was born in Litchfield, Conn., December 10, 1747. His father, Deacon Moses Chamberlin, moved to Newbury, Vt., at an early date in the settlement of that town,

* Slade's State Papers, p. 258.

and removed to Bradford in 1782. He bought a farm of Nehemiah Lovill for three hundred Spanish dollars. December 28, 1802, he sold the farm to his nephew, Capt. Moses Chamberlin, since which time the place has been known as the "Moses Chamberlin farm." It is now owned by Frank O. Kennedy.

Mr. Chamberlin was an influential citizen, and town clerk in 1794, 1795, 1796, and 1797. He also held nearly all the town offices at different times. In 1802 he moved to Pennsylvania. He married Abby Stevens of Newbury.

THOMAS MAY lived on the upper plain, where he kept a tavern. He was one of the committee of the town upon the contract for the construction of the first meeting house, in 1793.

